

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 167

H.P. 100

House of Representatives, January 14, 2025

**An Act to Provide 2 Hearing Aids to MaineCare Members with
Diagnosed Hearing Loss**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representative: SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-ZZ, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 237, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Required reimbursement.** The department shall provide reimbursement for a
5 hearing aid for ~~one~~ each hearing-impaired ear of an individual enrolled in the MaineCare
6 program in accordance with the following requirements:

7 A. The hearing loss must be documented by a primary care provider or an audiologist
8 licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 137;

9 B. The hearing aid must be provided by an audiologist or a hearing aid dealer licensed
10 pursuant to Title 32, chapter 137; and

11 C. The hearing loss must meet the requirements established by the department in rule
12 regarding the individual's severity of hearing loss.

13 ~~The department shall provide reimbursement for a hearing aid for the 2nd hearing-impaired~~
14 ~~ear of an individual enrolled in the MaineCare program if the individual meets requirements~~
15 ~~established by the department by rule regarding the individual's severity of hearing loss,~~
16 ~~enrollment in school, enrollment in vocational training, employment needs or the needs~~
17 ~~identified by a primary care provider.~~

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill requires the MaineCare program to provide reimbursement for a hearing aid
20 for each hearing-impaired ear of an individual enrolled in the MaineCare program. Under
21 current law, the MaineCare program provides reimbursement for a hearing aid for one
22 hearing-impaired ear of an individual enrolled in the MaineCare program, with additional
23 requirements as established by rule for coverage of a hearing aid for the 2nd hearing-
24 impaired ear.